



## Warneet Pier

Warneet Pier is located on the Northern End of Western Port and is approximately 35 minutes from Dandenong. The Pier is long but very narrow and the water is quite shallow, ranging from 1- 4 metres on high tide. The bottom is predominantly sand and mud with weed patches and mangroves are also prevalent around the shoreline. Warneet Pier is located off Rutherford Parade and does have reasonable car parking and it also has a barbecue and public toilet nearby. Make sure you bring some insect repellent during the warmer months as sandflies and mosquitos can be persistent.

Paying attention to the tides is crucial in all of Western Port, and this is no different for Warneet. At low tide the water level can be very low where even sand and mud flats are exposed, leaving just the main channel – which is indicated by visible moored boats and mooring bouys.

The ideal time to fish the jetty varies on which species of fish you are targeting but most fish will move about actively during the

incoming tide, especially during the last few hours of this tide. The first hour of the outgoing tide can also provide good fishing, as the food drains from the tidal flats into the main channel. Taking note of which direction the tide is running in before setting up will help you determine where and how you should be fishing.

One of the most important pieces of information to look at no matter where you are fishing is picking a particular species of fish are trying to target it. Taking one rod and trying to catch every fish that is available is generally the way to not catch fish.

Having a goal on a particular fish and setting up correctly for this fish will eventually lead to learn more about it and give you much more success in the long run.

### **Yellow Eye Mullet**

Yellow Eye Mullet are prolific here and can be as big as anywhere else in Westernport. Mullet are a school fish so if you dial in on your technique you can catch quite a few of them. The correct technique for successfully targeting mullet consists of a light tipped rod around 8ft, matched with a small spinning reel loaded up with line no heavier than around 10lb.

Fishing with a Paternoster rig is an excellent way to catch mullet, with a small bomb style sinker up to 2oz on the bottom of the rig.

Hook sizes between size 8 – 10 are best but be sure to match your hook pattern to bait type. Pieces of pilchard fillet, peeled prawn and pipi are excellent mullet baits – but as they have a small mouth be sure to keep baits as small. Berley is crucial to get the fish feeding, and the use of a weighted berley bucket is the best way of dispersing the berley in the area that you're actually fishing.

A good berley mix for mullet generally consists of fine 'coarse' style powder and small pellets or mashed pilchard, with a fish blend oil mixed into a thick 'wet sand' consistency. Fine enough to attract the fish in but no real pieces to feed them.

### **Silver Trevally**

Silver Trevally love the structure of the pier pylons and mooring blocks so most of the time they'll almost be right under your feet. If they're not around the immediate structure they will be between weed and sand patches around the main channel edge. The trevally are generally active throughout the tide, so if fishing mid-tide you can use the same style of rig that you would use for whiting. If you are fishing around the slacker stage of the tide try rigging with a single size 0 ball sinker running straight down onto your hook, as this will still give the bait some movement.

Some of the best bait choices for trevally are similar to that for mullet with pieces of

pilchards, pipi and prawn all excellent. Hook size 6 – 8 in a wide gap or similar pattern are good for these soft baits and tend to hold the fish in the corner of the mouth. Having a soft mouth they can be pulled off the hook quite easily so going steady on them will win you more fish.

Silver trevally are also quite partial to small soft plastics and vibe-style lures fished in the main channel and along it's edges. Fishing these with a small 'hop hop' along the bottom will normally see them caught.

### **King George Whiting**

King George Whiting are prevalent around the channels and flats near the pier. They are often found in similar areas to trevally, with scattered sand and weed patches the area to be looking towards. Be sure to try and cast next to the weed and not in it. If you are going through a slow patch it is a good idea to slowly 'roll' your bait back and give it some movement to attract the fish.

The best rigs to be fishing for KGW are either paternoster or extended paternoster styles. Whiting have a considerably small mouth so hook choices must reflect this. Size 6 wide gap or mid shank worm style hooks are generally the best options. Whiting will suck the bait in and only give you one or two shots at hooking them so make sure you expose

the hook point for better hook up and try and hold the rod where possible.

Strips of softened squid, pipi, mussels and bass yabbies are excellent baits, with the bass yabbies able to be pumped from the shallow flats at surrounding the pier, just bear in mind they are very soft and can be pinched off the hook before you can say 'here we go'.

### **Mulloway**

Probably the most prized catch for the area, and Warneet Pier provides a big opportunity to capture one of these beauties. Although it seems only the seasoned angler with the understanding and know how tend to find success, anyone with a line in the water has a shot at one. Persistence is key with mulloway fishing, with late nights giving you the best chance overall.

Absolutely critical for mulloway success is the use of live or freshly caught baits such as mullet, salmon or squid – which luckily can be caught in the same area. Fishing a standard 'Westernport' running sinker rig is the best option. Main lines of around 30lb, coupled with a hard-wearing leader of 40-80 lb is preferred - with hook sizes between 4/0 and 7/0 suitable, depending on bait type and size.

Lure fishing can also be successful on the mulloway if they're about, with both soft plastics and hardbodied minnows worth a cast. Lure size and profile should be determined around the natural food source available, so in this instance something that imitates a 10cm mullet or squid is ideal.

### **Other Species**

While these are the most commonly targeted species of fish around the pier, other commonly seen fish for the area are; Australian Salmon, Rock and Sand Flathead, Garfish, Squid, Long-finned Pike, Snook, and Pinkies.

**For any additional information or specifics talk to us in-store.**

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*This handout is for use as information only, and the suggestions are based on our experiences for fishing this particular location and or species.*